

Message Text

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ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 /036 W
-----020159 081907Z /45
P 091848Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3753
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPARTMENT PASS FAA; BRUSSELS AND PARIS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, US, SP
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - FAA AIRPORT SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO SPAIN

REF: MADRID 894; MADRID 980; BELL-DOROUGH TELCON MARCH 2

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH LT. COL. GOMEZ-ESCOLAR, CHIEF OF AIRPORT SECURITY, ON MARCH 8. LATTER GAVE EMBOFF COPY OF LETTER FROM SUBSECRETARY OF CIVIL AVIATION SAENZ INSAUSTI, DATED FEBRUARY 8, IN REPLY TO EMBASSY'S FEBRUARY 1 LETTER WITH REGARD TO FAA OFFER TO SEND SECURITY TEAM TO SPAIN AND INVITING SPANISH TO SEND GOMEZ-ESCOLAR OR OTHER SECURITY OFFICIAL TO U.S. FOR FAMILIARIZATION VISIT TO JFK AND DULLES AIRPORTS. SUBSTANCE OF LETTER (WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED) IS THAT TEAM VISIT IS ACCEPTABLE IN PRINCIPLE, WITH TIME TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON, AND THAT VISIT TO U.S. BY SPANISH SECURITY OFFICIAL IS "NOT CONVENIENT" AT THIS TIME.

2. GOMEZ-ESCOLAR SAID THAT AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR DELIVERY
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AND INSTALLATION OF THIRTY NEW SECURITY SYSTEMS WILL BE MADE WITHIN NEXT TEN DAYS. ALSO HE EXPECTED TO VISIT BARCELONA, PALMA AND MALAGA WITHIN NEXT WEEK TO GET WORK STARTED ON ESTABLISHING "STERILE" AREAS AT THESE AIRPORTS. GOS HOPES TO HAVE SECURITY AT ALL MAJOR AIRPORTS IN GOOD SHAPE BY START OF MAJOR TOURIST INFLOW IN SUMMER. GOMEZ-ESCOLAR SAID HE BELIEVED THAT BEST

TIME TO HAVE FAA TEAM VISIT WOULD BE AFTER MOST INSTALLATION WORK IS COMPLETED, WHICH HE ESTIMATED AS LATE MAY-EARLY JUNE.

3. EMBOFF ALSO VISITED IBERIA SECURITY CHIEF ENRIQUE DE LA HOZ GABIOLA, WHO SAID HE WAS STILL IN PROCESS OF ORGANIZING HIS DEPARTMENT AND COULD NOT GET AWAY FOR VISIT TO U.S., AS PROPOSED DURING JANUARY VISIT BY FAA OFFICIAL BELL. HOWEVER, DE LA HOZ ASKED EMBOFF TO CONTACT HIM ABOUT MARCH 21, AT WHICH TIME HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE PROPOSED DATES FOR VISIT.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP ON BOTH TEAM VISIT AND DE LA HOZ VISIT AS APPROPRIATE AND KEEP DEPARTMENT AND FAA INFORMED. WE HAVE POINTED OUT TO BOTH GOMEZ-ESCOLAR AND DE LA HOZ THAT FAA WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO BE NOTIFIED IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO MAKE PREPARATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN CASE OF TEAM VISIT TO SPAIN. STABLER

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